

Town of Bedford Finance Committee
Selectmen's Meeting Room, Bedford Town Hall

Date: November 21, 2013

Finance Committee Attendees: Stephen Steele, Vice-Chair; Barbara Perry, Stephen Carluccio, Richard Bowen, Tom Busa, Bob Kenney, Ben Thomas, Elizabeth McClung.

Other Attendees: Bruce Murphy, John Linz, Stephen Poulos, Ron Cordes, Board of Assessors; Ed Pierce, School Committee; William Moonan, Selectmen; Victor Garofalo, Finance Director, Treasurer/Collector; Joanne Monaghan, Recording Secretary for finance committee.

Attachments/Handouts: Model 2.1 for FY15. Assessors presentation. Memo from Richard Bowen re: Road Resurfacing. Budget Allocation (model 2.1), various FY15 Guideline scenarios.

Meeting was called to order at 7:34pm.

Meeting Discussions and Actions:

1. Bruce and John from the Assessor's office presented an update of New Growth Summary, Overlay Benchmark Analysis and the Property tax shift model for FY14. Residential values increased by 3% over the previous year. Residential new growth value-\$34.9m; Commercial & Industrial value-\$4.1m; Personal Property-\$11.3m; Total \$50.3m. Residential increase due to a building boom and the Pulte property on Hartwell road. Bruce reviewed the overlay benchmark and recommended the overlay projection for FY15 at \$950k. John also reviewed the levy comparisons FY13 vs FY14. They pointed out that there are open overlay accounts from 2003 to 2011 and they are all telecom cases with an open risk, FY09, \$61k, FY10, \$5k and FY12, \$317k.
2. Victor reviewed Model 2.1 and also discussed changes. New Growth changed from \$600k to \$800k; Free Cash from \$2,152,314 to \$1,952,314; Overlay reserve from \$900k to \$950,000; Road reconstruction/resurfacing from \$510,050 to \$600,000; Main capital article from \$1,537,000 to \$1,447,950. The guideline with the suggested changes is currently \$1,791,177.
3. There was a discussion regarding adding funds for road resurfacing. Rich reviewed the highlights that the DPW presented at the finance committee meeting on November 14, and suggested that the road conditions need further improvement since there would be a rapid degradation if nothing is done.

Rich B made a motion to decrease the Main Capital article by \$189,050 and add \$189,050 to the Public Works Road Reconstruction/resurfacing line item. 2nd by Tom B. ***Vote: 4-4-0.***

Barbara made a motion to increase the Road Resurfacing line item in DPW by \$89,050, making the new amount \$600,000 and to decrease cap item in budget by same amount. 2nd by Steve C. ***Vote: 7-0-1.***

There was discussion to determine the Revenue Growth for the FY15 Guideline. Victor prepared scenarios that were reviewed. Motion was made by Tom B to allocate \$1.5m in

revenue growth per Model 2.1 as the guideline for FY15, and change Free Cash to \$1,952,315 2nd by Rich B. **Vote: 8-0-0.**

4. **Old Business:** The committee asked Victor to provide a list of special funds; this will be reviewed at a future meeting.
5. **New Business:** none to report
6. **Meetings Attended:**
Capital Meeting, Barbara attended. Capital requests for vehicles, \$1.3m, which includes 2 dump trucks for the DPW @\$440k. Other requests include water projects/improvements and Springs Brook park road update.
School Committee, Steve S attended and noted they discussed the budget increases for space and additional FTE's due to enrollment increases, state mandates and special education, there is ~6% increase from last year.
Selectmen Meeting, Ben T attended. Police and Fire departments presented their budgets.
7. Open Discussion: none
8. **Minutes:** Steve S asked to review the minutes of November 14, at the next meeting on December 5.
9. Tom B. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25pm, seconded by Steve C. **Vote: 8-0-0.**

Finance Meeting Schedule: December 5 and 19; January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 27.